



Italia 2006

Giardino dietro casa

My hostess's backyard

She grows many flowers and herbs.



Un parco di Orvieto

Public park in Orvieto



Il giardino comunale

Orvieto's main park—very much like Lithia Park in Ashland, Oregon — was situated near the wall that surrounds the city and offered it protection in medieval times.

La panorama

Orvieto is on a hilltop, and this is just one view of the surrounding countryside.



Il duomo

The main cathedral in Orvieto began in 1290. It has a facade that many, even non-Orvietani, consider to be the most beautiful in all of Italy.

La prima cena italiana

The *antipasto* of my first Italian meal in a restaurant

The *antipasto* was entitled “*Bruschetta di quattro sapori*” or “Bruschetta of four flavors.”



Allo scalo

Two people are walking on the road that leads to the lower part of Orvieto, called the *scalo*.



Il muro

Tufo is “a light, porous rock formed by consolidation of volcanic ash.” The Orvietani used it to construct a wall around their city.



Il tramonto

Sunset from
Orvieto



L'università

The central
courtyard of the
Centro Studi Città
di Orvieto, the
university I
attended.



S. Luca

A winged ox represents St. Luke.

S. Giovanni

An eagle represents St. John.



S. Matteo e S. Marco

A winged man (left) represents St. Matthew and a winged lion (right), St. Mark.

La facciata

The facade of the Orvieto cathedral is not painted. It is comprised of motifs depicting biblical stories for the illiterate of medieval times and mosaics of the 19th century that give it its colors.



Il duomo di Orvieto

The construction of Orvieto's cathedral in 1290 was inspired by the Miracle of Bolsena.



L'organo

They were tuning the organ of Orvieto's cathedral for an organ concert.



L'altare

The altar of
Orvieto's cathedral



Tovaglia d'altare

Bloodstained altar
cloth on display in
Orvieto's cathedral

In the Miracle of
Bolsena, nearby
Orvieto, blood
dripped from a
consecrated host
and stained this
altar cloth.



La villa di Adriano

Hadrian (76-138 AD) was emperor of Rome. He lived outside Rome in this villa at Tivoli.

Camera da letto

Hadrian's bedroom



Un castello a Tivoli

A thunderstorm was coming into Tivoli making this castel look ominous.



**Il duomo di
Firenze**

Florence's largest
cathedral

**La cupola di
Brunelleschi**

Brunelleschi's
dome, an
architectural feat
for 1463, is the
largest in Italy.



Ciliegie

Fruit for dessert in my host family's kitchen

Dentro il duomo di Firenze

Inside Florence's cathedral



Fontana di Nettuno

The *Fountain of Neptune* by Ammannati in 1575 depicts the Roman god of the sea and celebrates Tuscany's naval victories.



**Copia del
 *Davide***

A copy of Michelangelo's *David* has stood in the Piazza della Signoria since 1873.



Perseo di Cellini

A bronze statue from 1554 of Perseus beheading Medusa



Pentecoste

A dove descends into the Piazza del Duomo during the feast of the Palombella held annually on Pentacost.



Un tamburo

Drummers dressed in medieval garb initiate the festivities.



La mia ospite

My host mom in the brown jacket

Palombella

More drummers for feast of the Palombella



Torre di Maurizio

Staircase to the top of the Tower of Maurice



I contadini

Locals dress up as farmers for the antique crafts fair during the feast of the Palombella.



Orvieto dal Torre di Maurizio

Orvieto from the Tower of Maurice

The church I attended each Sunday, the Chiesa di San Domenico, is in the background.



I tetti dei edifici orvietani

Rooftops of Orvieto's buildings

When fog covers Orvieto, its *duomo*, in the background of this picture, is said to appear to sail on a sea of clouds.

Forum Romanum

The Roman Forum



Il sepolcro di Cesare

Ever since 44 BC, people have been leaving flowers on Caesar's grave.

Il coliseo

In 75 AD Vespasian began the *Amphitheatrum Flavium* in Rome, better known as the Colosseum.



Corso Cavour

Corso Cavour, the main street of Orvieto

Conte di Cavour was "the first premier of a unified Italy" in 1861.



Dipinto del sposo

A painting of the late husband of my hostess dressed as a medieval man for the annual Corpus Domini celebration



Fiera dei contadini

Farmers sell their crafts.

Un chiromante

The crafts fair even included a palm reader!



Il Palio d'Oca

Drummers initiate the *palio* in Orvieto. Many Italian towns have a *palio*, or medieval horse race. Orvieto's palio occurs June 10th.

Il palio

The horse race is held at night in the Piazza del Popolo, the same piazza their markets occur every Thursday and Saturday.



La luna e il duomo

The moonlight was shining on Orvieto's cathedral.

Un bar a Perugia

A typical Italian bar, Perugia



Assisi

The cathedral of Assisi where Saint Francis is buried with *pax* or "peace" written on the lawn in Latin.

La Fontana di Trevi

The *Trevi Fountain* (1735) is the most famous fountain in Rome. It was built by Nicola Salvi (1697-1751). *Trevi* means "three roads."



La colazione italiana

My Italian breakfasts consisted of tè (tea), *frutta* (fruit), and homemade *marmellata* (jelly).

I gatti della mia ospite

Four of my hostess's six cats sleeping lazily in Orvieto

Romeo, Maurizio, Mimi, Wendy, and ... I can't remember the other two.



**Una chiesa
francese**

A French church
at the top of the
Spanish Steps in
Rome



Pantheon

An interior view of
the Pantheon's
dome



Pantheon

Being over 2,000 years old, the Pantheon is Rome's oldest building still standing today.

Il cupola del Pantheon

The dome of the Pantheon was an architectural feat. Toward the top of the dome one can find ceramic jar fragments in the concrete. This was to prevent it from caving in under its own weight.



Il Tevere

The Tiber River and St. Peter's Basilica, Rome



**La Fontana dei
Quattro Fiumi**

Lorenzo Bernini's
*Fountain of the
Four Rivers*, Rome



**La Basilica di
San Pietro**

It took a long time
to walk to St.
Peter's Basilica
because this
piazza, where
John Paul II's
funeral was held,
covers an area as
large as the
basilica itself.



La basilica è lontana!

St. Peter's Basilica in the distance

Benedicto XV

Inside the basilica there was a statue of Benedict XV.



La Pietà

Michelangelo's *Pietà* (c. 1500) behind glass in St. Peter's Basilica

Un teatro romano

A Roman theater in Pompeii, south of Naples

Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii in 79 AD. Vesuvius's ashes preserved the city.



**La basilica
stessa**

Sunlight gloriously
shone into St.
Peter's Basilica.



Pio XII

The infamous
Pope Pius XII has
been criticized for
staying neutral
and not
condemning
Naziism during
World War II.



Il monumento di Gregorio XIII

The Religion figure's tablet of the monument to Pope Gregory XIII recounting the promulgation of the Gregorian calendar in 1582 reads "I know your works and faith" in Latin.

Il baldacchino di Bernini

Bernini built the baldacquin of St. Peter's Basilica out of bronze in the 17th century. Bernini also built the colonnade around the piazza of St. Peter's Basilica.



Un altare della basilica

Another altar in St. Peter's Basilica



Museo archeologico

The largest open room in any museum is at the Naples museum of archaeology. It features a solar observatory that projects sunlight onto the floor, telling ancients the time of year.



Atlante

Atlas carries the world on his shoulders in the large room of the Naples museum.



Le strade napoletane

A police officer directs traffic in the hectic streets of Naples.



Un vignetto pompeiano

Archaeologists uncovered seeds of ancient grapes in Pompeii and reconstructed this vineyard with the same variety of grapes. Mt. Vesuvius is in the background.

Un dipinto pompeiano

A Pompeian wall painting



Il Corteo Storico

The Historical Court of Orvieto, comprised of hundreds of Orvietani, celebrates the Miracle of Bolsena every year during Corpus Domini (or Corpus Christi) in Orvieto. There are medieval musicians, banner

fliers, representatives of the saints, and representatives of each of the four districts or *quartieri* in Orvieto. I lived in the Quartiere Corsica, whose flag depicts a castle.



**La chiesa a
Pompei**

We stayed at a hotel in Pompeii not too far from this beautiful church. I went to mass in this church the next morning, a Sunday.



Le balestre

There were even people carrying medieval crossbows in the Corteo Storico procession.

Bandiere

The Orvietani carried banners depicting the Miracle of Bolsena during the Corpus Domini procession.



La tovaglia d'altare

Then at last the sacred bloodstained altar cloth of the miracle traveled through Orvieto's streets from Bolsena.

La processione

The procession meandered through all the main streets of Orvieto.



I contadini

Like during the feast of the Palombella, the Orvietani dress as farmers and hold a crafts fair during Corpus Domini.



Il vescovo di Germania

This banner displays the bishop of Germany who did not believe in the transubstantiation of Christ but did believe after the Miracle of Bolsena happened before his eyes.



I religiosi

The religious people were last in the procession.



La gente del Corteo Storico

The Orvietani make the dress for the people of the Historical Court from scratch every year.



I spettatori

Onlookers watch the procession from the Piazza della Repubblica.

E continua...

And the procession continues...



Teatro nelle strade

The audience, following actors throughout the streets of Orvieto, watched modern reenactments of biblical stories.

Il duomo di Siena

The striped architecture of the *duomo* of Siena, like the *duomo* of Orvieto, is Moorish in origin. Slate and marble create the dark and light stripes.



Laude in Urbis

In front of Orvieto's cathedral the actors in the play *Laude in Urbis: La strada per Emmaus* (*Praise in the City: The road to Emmaus*) recounted the Genesis stories.

Nella Chiesa di San Francesco

On the altar of Orvieto's oldest church, the Chiesa di San Francesco, of the 13th century, actors reenacted Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.



Dentro l'inferno

Then the audience descended into hell. Later we were redeemed by Christ, and the audience members celebrated by eating and drinking with the actors.

Il duomo di Siena

An interior view of the cathedral of Siena



**Il duomo di
Siena**

More interior
views of the
cathedral of Siena



**Campagna di
Siena**

The countryside of
Siena





Le tre virtù

Attached to the *duomo* of Siena is an art gallery with amazing wall paintings and mosaics. The three statues represent the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love.

Una statua

A statue in the *duomo* of Siena



La campagna a Siena

More countryside surrounding Siena

La stazione ad Aversa

The Aversa train station



Il treno è arrivato

My train arrived in Aversa

La cena di addio

The study abroad program's farewell dinner



**Una chiesa ad
Aversa**

An old church in
Aversa



**Una fontana
aversana**

A fountain in a
newer piazza in
Aversa



**Le tombe a
Cerveteri**

Etruscan tombs
from before Christ
in Cerveteri



**Il Pozzo di San
Patrizio**

The bottom of
Saint Patrick's
Well in Orvieto



Il Pozzo di San Patrizio

Saint Patrick's Well is the only well in the world shaped as a double helix such that donkeys could go down, fetch water, and come back up without interfering with other donkeys.

Arte della ceramica

A local artisen in Orvieto makes, paints, and fires her own ceramics.



Il Ponte Vecchio a Firenze

Florence's *Ponte Vecchio* or "old bridge"

L'uomo

Interesting graffiti of Jesus with "the man" written in Italian in Florence

